

U.S. Trade With Singapore: 2011 January-March vs. 2010 January-March

Trade

- Singapore was the United States' 13th largest export market in the first three months of 2011, down from 10th place in 2010. U.S. exports to Singapore remained flat at \$7.0 billion in the first three months of 2011.
- Singapore's exports to the United States rose 24.3 percent to \$4.6 billion, from \$3.7 billion in the first three months of 2010.
- Singapore was our 16th largest trading partner in the first three months of 2011, down from 12th in 2010. Two-way trade rose 8.4 percent to \$11.6 billion.
- During the first seven years of the U.S.-Singapore FTA, which came into effect January 1, 2004, two-way trade has increased 47 percent and U.S. exports by 76 percent.

Trade Balance (Goods)

- The U.S. goods trade surplus with Singapore dipped 27.3 percent in the first three months of 2011 to \$2.4 billion from \$3.3 billion in 2010.
- The United States ran its sixth largest surplus in the first three months of 2011 with Singapore (\$2.4 billion), after Hong Kong (\$7.4 billion), the Netherlands (\$4.6 billion), Australia (\$3.7 billion), Brazil (\$3.5 billion) and Turkey (\$2.8 billion).
- Primary U.S. exports to Singapore in the first three months of 2011 consisted of machinery (\$1.3 billion, down 2.3 percent from 2010); electrical machinery (\$1.3 billion, down 2.3 percent); aircraft/aircraft parts (\$0.9 billion, unchanged); and mineral fuel/oil (\$0.9 billion, down 20 percent).

Singapore vs. ASEAN and Other Trade Partners

- The United States exported more to Singapore (\$7.0 billion) in the first three months of 2011 than to many other economies with significantly larger populations, including Taiwan (\$6.8 billion), Australia (\$5.8 billion), India (\$4.6 billion), Italy (\$3.9 billion), and Malaysia (\$3.8 billion).
- U.S. exports to Singapore (population 5.1 million) were 27.1 percent of those to China (population 1.34 billion) in 2010; 43.8 percent of those to Japan (population 128 million); and 68.5 percent of those to South Korea (population 49 million).
- Singapore is the largest ASEAN market for U.S. exports. It took 37.8 percent of total exports to ASEAN in the first three months of 2011, down from 42.2 percent in 2010.

- With exports of \$18.5 billion to ASEAN member countries in the first three months of 2011, the United States sold nearly as much to this region (population 583 million and, taken together, our fifth largest trading partner) as to China (\$26.03 billion). The United States exported more to ASEAN than to Japan (\$16.1 billion), Germany (\$11.9 billion), and the United Kingdom (\$13.1 billion).

Trade in Services (2009 latest available)

- Two-way trade in services between the United States and Singapore dipped 1.5 percent to \$13.1 billion in 2009, from \$13.3 billion in 2008.
- During the first six years of the U.S.-Singapore FTA, which came into effect January 1, 2004, two-way trade in services increased 63.5 percent and U.S. exports of services by 57.6 percent to US\$9.3 billion.
- Singapore was the United States' 17th largest trading partner in services in 2009, up from 18th in 2008, and remained our 16th largest export market at \$9.3 billion. The United States ran its tenth largest surplus in services in 2009 with Singapore (\$5.5 billion).
- Seventy eight percent of services exports consisted of royalties (\$4.2 billion) and business services (\$3.05 billion) relating to information technology, management, operational leasing and R&D.
- Singapore is the largest ASEAN market for U.S. exports of services. It took 58.9 percent of total exports to ASEAN (\$15.8 billion) in 2009.
- With services exports of \$15.8 billion in 2009, the United States sold more services to ASEAN countries (taken together, our tenth largest trading partner (\$25.1 billion) in services) than to China (\$15.7 billion), South Korea (\$12.6 billion), the Netherlands (\$11.8 billion), and Australia (\$12.2 billion).

Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (2009 latest available)

- U.S. FDI in Singapore dipped 10.7 percent to \$76.86 billion in 2009, compared to \$86.05 billion in 2008. Singapore was the third largest recipient of U.S. investment in Asia after Australia (\$106.37 billion) and Japan (\$103.64 billion), and the fourteenth largest recipient worldwide.
- A very significant decrease in total investments in Singapore was accounted for by U.S. non-bank holding companies, which scaled back stakes in Singapore from \$54.2 billion to \$42.1 billion. Also, over 50 percent of the direct investment in Singapore is in holding companies as many U.S. corporations channel their investments in third countries through Singapore. In general, a change in direct investment position in holding companies can be large when multi-national corporations restructure their foreign ownership structure, which can occur frequently.

- U.S. investment in the five major ASEAN states, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines, totaled \$122.4 billion and exceeded that invested on a combined basis in the Greater China (\$119.4 billion) – including China (\$49.4 billion), Hong Kong (\$50.5 billion), and Taiwan (\$19.5 billion).

Sources: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, BEA, and ITA